



Press release – 05.09.2019

Psychological Society of Ireland makes recommendations for Budget 2020

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), the learned and professional body for Psychology in the Republic of Ireland, has issued a number of recommendations for the Government to take into consideration for Budget 2020.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) Mental Health Workforce Planning Report October 2018, noted that there were 201 Psychologists less than recommended by A Vision for Change in post, with large geographic areas of the country having a much lower level of Psychologists available relative to the national value.

Given this crisis in the numbers of Psychologists available, it is not surprising that in recent times there have been:

- 3,345 adults on waiting lists for counselling appointments;
- 2,523 children on the HSE CAMHS waiting list in January 2019;
- 6,300 children and teenagers were waiting for a Primary Care Psychology appointment in Ireland at the end of August 2018;
- Only 8.9% of target levels reached for assessments completed within the timelines specified by the Disability Act (3rd quarter of 2018).

The Society's recommendations are as follows:

- Individually allocated Continuous Professional Development (CPD) budgets for Psychologists working in the Civil / Public Service;
- Fund the Doctorate in Counselling Psychology training programme;
- Fund the Doctorate in Educational Psychology training programme;
- Expand the number of funded places in Doctorate in Clinical Psychology training;
- The development of funding routes and models that support the range of research activity undertaken by Psychologists in a range of public service settings;
- A commitment by the Government to extend the funding of the Assistant Psychologist pilot programme;
- That the Government would establish a working party, in conjunction with the PSI, to establish an evidence-based training programme for the Assistant Psychologist grade.

The PSI President Ian O'Grady states: "At a time of increasing pressure on many members of society, the benefits of psychological intervention for mental health difficulties is recognised internationally. The current situation of increasing waiting times, caused in the most part by posts left vacant posts, will have a profound and long-term detrimental impact upon our most

vulnerable. The long-term investment in training and supporting psychologists alongside the continual funding of research in the field, will ensure a positive impact upon the nation's mental health and wellbeing. We call on the Government to provide adequate funding to fulfil the areas covered in the submission.”

ENDS.

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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NOTES:

- To view the PSI Pre-Budget 2020 submission, please click [here](#);
- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) is the learned and professional body for psychology in the Republic of Ireland. Established in 1970, the Society currently has almost 3,000 members;
- The PSI is committed to maintaining high standards of practice in psychology and also to exploring new and innovative ways of furthering psychology as an applied science.